

instrument is expressly denominated as a "lease," including any:

- (1) Contract;
- (2) Net profit share arrangement;
- (3) Joint venture; or
- (4) Agreement the Secretary approves under the Indian Mineral Development Act, 25 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*

Lessee means any person to whom the United States, or the United States on behalf of an Indian tribe or individual Indian mineral owner, issues a lease subject to this subpart, or any person to whom all or part of the lessee's interest or operating rights in a lease subject to this subpart has been assigned.

Notice of Order means the notice that MMS or a delegated State issues to a lessee that informs the lessee that MMS or the delegated State has issued an order to the lessee's designee.

Obligation means:

- (1) A lessee's, designee's or payor's duty to:

- (i) Deliver oil or gas royalty in kind; or

- (ii) Make a lease-related payment, including royalty, minimum royalty, rental, bonus, net profit share, proceeds of sale, interest, penalty, civil penalty, or assessment; and

- (2) The Secretary's duty to:

- (i) Take oil or gas royalty-in-kind; or
 - (ii) Make a lease-related payment, refund, offset, or credit, including royalty, minimum royalty, rental, bonus, net profit share, proceeds of sale, or interest.

- (3) The obligations identified in paragraphs (1)(i) and (2)(i) of this definition are nonmonetary obligations. The obligations identified in paragraphs (1)(ii) and (2)(ii), including the requirement to compute the amount of such obligations, are monetary obligations.

Order for purposes of this subpart only, means any document issued by the MMS Director, MMS RMP, or a delegated State that contains mandatory or ordering language that requires the recipient to do any of the following for any lease subject to this subpart: report, compute, or pay royalties or other obligations, report production, or provide other information.

- (1) Order includes:

- (i) An order to pay or to compute and pay; and

- (ii) An MMS or delegated State decision to deny a lessee's, designee's, or payor's written request that asserts an obligation due the lessee, designee or payor.

- (2) Order does not include:

- (i) A non-binding request, information, or guidance, such as:

- (A) Advice or guidance on how to report or pay, including a valuation determination, unless it contains mandatory or ordering language; and

- (B) A policy determination;

- (ii) A subpoena;

- (iii) An order to pay that MMS issues to a refiner or other person involved in disposition of royalty taken in kind; or

- (iv) A Notice of Noncompliance or a Notice of Civil Penalty issued under 30 U.S.C. 1719 and 30 CFR part 241, or a decision of an administrative law judge or of the IBLA following a hearing on the record on a Notice of Noncompliance or Notice of Civil Penalty.

Party means MMS, any person who files a Notice of Appeal, and any person who files a Notice of Joinder in an appeal under this subpart.

§ 290.103 Who may file an appeal?

- (a) If you receive an order that adversely affects you or your lessee, you may appeal that order except as provided under § 290.104.

- (b) If you are a lessee and you receive a Notice of Order, and if you contest the order, you may either appeal the order or join in your designee's appeal under § 290.106.

§ 290.104 What may I not appeal under this subpart?

You may not appeal:

- (a) An action that is not an order, as defined in this subpart; or

- (b) A determination of the surety amount or financial solvency under 30 CFR part 243, subparts B or C.

§ 290.105 How do I appeal an order?

- (a) You may appeal an order to the Director, Minerals Management Service (MMS Director), by filing a Notice of Appeal in the office of the official issuing the order within 30 days from service of the order.

- (1) Within the same 30-day period, you must file in the office of the official issuing the order a statement of

reasons or written arguments or briefs that include the arguments on the facts or laws that you believe justify reversal or modification of the order.

(2) If you are a designee, when you file your Notice of Appeal you must serve your Notice of Appeal on the lessees for the leases in the order you appealed.

(b) You may not request and will not receive an extension of time for filing the Notice of Appeal.

(c) If the office of the official issuing the order does not receive the Notice of Appeal within the time provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Notice of Appeal will be considered timely if the office of the official issuing the order receives:

(1) The Notice of Appeal not later than 10 days after the required filing date; and

(2) The officer with whom the Notice of Appeal must be filed determines that the Notice of Appeal was transmitted to the proper office before the filing deadline in paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) If the Notice of Appeal is filed after the grace period provided in paragraph (c) of this section and was not transmitted to the proper office before the filing deadline in paragraph (a) of this section, the MMS Director will not consider the Notice of Appeal and the case will be closed.

(e) The officer with whom the Notice of Appeal is filed will send the appeal and accompanying papers to the MMS Director.

(f) The MMS Director will review the record and render a decision in the case.

(g) If an order involves Indian leases, the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs will exercise the functions vested in the MMS Director.

§ 290.106 How do lessees join a designee's appeal and how does joinder affect the appeal?

(a) If you are a lessee, and your designee files an appeal under § 290.103, you may join in that appeal within 30 days after you receive your designee's Notice of Appeal under § 290.105(a)(2) by filing a Notice of Joinder with the office or official that issued the order.

(b) If you join in an appeal under paragraph (a) of this section, you are deemed to appeal the order jointly with the designee, but the designee must fulfill all requirements imposed on appellants under this subpart and 43 CFR part 4, subparts E and J. You may not file submissions or pleadings separately from the designee.

(c) If you are a lessee and you neither appeal nor join in your designee's appeal under this section, your designee's actions with respect to the appeal and any decisions in the appeal bind you.

(d) If you are a designee and you decide to discontinue participation in the appeal, you must serve written notice within 30 days before the next submission or pleading is due on:

(1) All lessees who have joined in the appeal under paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) The office or officer with whom any subsequent submissions or pleadings must be filed, including the IBLA; and

(3) All other parties to the appeal.

(e) If you have joined in the appeal under paragraph (a) of this section, and if the designee notifies you under paragraph (d) of this section that it declines to further pursue the appeal, you become an appellant and must then meet all requirements of this subpart and 43 CFR part 4, subparts E and J, as the appellant.

§ 290.107 Where are the rules concerning the effect of the Department not issuing a decision in my appeal within the statutory time frame?

If your appeal involves monetary or nonmonetary obligations under Federal oil and gas leases, the rules concerning the effect of the Department not issuing a final decision in your appeal within the 33-month period prescribed under 30 U.S.C. 1724(h) are located in 43 CFR part 4, subpart J.

§ 290.108 How do I appeal to the IBLA?

Any party to a case adversely affected by a final decision of the MMS Director or the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs under this subpart shall have a right of appeal to the IBLA under the procedures provided in 43 CFR part 4, subpart E.